

REMARKS

Amendments

The claims are amended to use language in accordance with conventional US practice. In addition, claim 7 is amended to incorporate claim 8 (now cancelled), claim 18 is amended to recite the feature of claim 19 (now cancelled), and claim 26 is amended to incorporate claim 27 (now cancelled).

New claims 31-41 are directed to further aspects of applicants' invention. See, e.g., the original claims, and pages 15 and 17.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5, 7, 8, 19-22, and 25-27 recite allowable subject matter. Applicants further note that only claims 18, 23, and 24 are rejected in view of prior art.

Rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 6, 9-14, 18, and 28-30 are rejected as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is amended to correct the designations of the conditions. As for claim 6, the transition temperature ($T(N^*, BP)$) is clearly described in the specification and the claims. See, e.g., page 14, lines 19-28. Claims 9-10 now depend from claim 7, which defines both Formula I and Formula II. Similarly, claims 28-30 now depend from claim 26, which defines both Formula I and Formula II. Claim 18 is amended to indicate that either condition (a) or (d) is satisfied, as these conditions relate to different transition conditions.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and 35 USC 101

Use claims 15-17 have now been converted into Jepson format method claims.
Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 18, 23, and 24 are rejected as allegedly being anticipated in view of Heppke et al. (US 4,767,194). As noted above, the Examiner has indicated that claim 19 recites allowable subject matter. Claim 18 has now been amended to include the feature recited in claim 19. Thus, claim 18 and all claims depend thereon, e.g., claims 23-24, are allowable over Heppke et al. (US 4,767,194). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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